Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O R 092225Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8482 INFO AMCONGEN ST JOHN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MARR, CA

SUBJ: GOOSE BAY PRESS RELEASE

REF: DEPT 004816

1. EMBOFF PASSED CONTENTS REFTEL TO EXTAFF (LEGG) WHO ALREADY HAD TEXT OF RELEASE; HE INDICATED THAT GOC MUST STILL OBTAIN CLEARANCES FROM MINISTER OF DEFENCE RICHARDSON AND TRANSPORT MINISTER LANG BEFORE IT CAN ISSUE RELEASE, AND HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG THIS WOULD TAKE.

2. LEGG MADE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (A) WHILE APPROVAL ASSURED FROM DIFFERENT MINISTRIES, SINCE CONTINUED EMPLOY-MENT OF PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREA IS AT STAKE, MOT WILL BE BUREAU-CRATICALLY UNHAPPY SINCE IT WILL HAVE TO DO A LOT OF "HAGGLING" WITH DND AND USAF OVER FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED; (B) LEGG'S CURIOSITY PIQUED BY REFERENCE TO CONVERTING GOOSE INTO "NATO"BASE. HE WONDERED WHAT THIS COULD MEAN, AND HIS OFF-THE-CUFF REACTION WAS THAT GOC WOULD LOOK VERY FAVORABLY UPON SUCH ACTION SINCE IT WAS IN LINE WITH GOC'S "THIRD OPTION." HE SAID HE INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP WITH DND TO SEE IF ANYTHING MIGHT BE DONE ALONG THAT LINE; (C) CANADIAN PRESS HAS APPARENTLY GOTTEN WIND OF STORY IN WASHINGTON AND THERE HAS BEEN PRESS LEAK IN ST. JOHN'S ABOUT USAF DECISION. SINCE SO MUCH INFO SEEMED TO BE KNOWN BY PUBLIC, HE THOUGHT IT NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WISE TO REPLY TO PRESS INQUIRIES WITH SIMPLE "NO COMMENT"

AS IN PAST. SO EXTAFF PRESS RELATIONS DIVISION WILL BE
ADVISED TO REPLY, ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS, THAT IT CAN CONFIRM
THE US REQUEST TO MAINTAIN A REDUCED USAF PRESENCE AT GOOSE,
AND THAT THE REQUEST IS RECEIVING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.
IF PRESSED FURTHER, PRESS OFFICE WILL CONFIRM NEWS WHICH HAS
ALREADY APPEARED. THUS ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT WILL OCCUR
IF PRESS FOLLOWS UPON STORY AND WHAT WILL OCCUR NORMALLY IS
THAT IN LATTER INSTANCE, GOC IMPRIMATUR WILL MAKE IT OFFICIAL.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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